



Division of Global Public Health Capacity Development

Field Epidemiology Training Program

Overview

The Division of Global Public Health Capacity Development (DGPCHD) is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Coordinating Office for Global Health. DGPCHD works to improve the health of the people of the United States and other nations by partnering with national and international organizations and foreign governments to build strong, transparent, sustained public health systems.

Field Epidemiology Training Program

A major focus of DGPCHD centers on applied epidemiology training programs such as the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) and the Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP).

DGPCHD offers these applied epidemiology programs to help foreign countries develop, set up, and implement dynamic public health strategies to improve and strengthen their public health system and infrastructure.

The program was started in 1980 and is modeled after CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service.

An FELTP contains all the components of a traditional program, plus trains select laboratory scientists using a competency-based curriculum that supports laboratory-based surveillance and outbreak response.

Curriculum

The two-year, full-time training and service program typically involves classroom instruction (25%) and field assignments (75%).

While in class, trainees take courses in epidemiology, communications, economics, and management. They also learn about quantitative- and behavior-based strategies.

In the field, trainees conduct epidemiologic investigations and field surveys, evaluate surveillance systems, perform disease control and prevention measures, report their findings to decision-makers and policy-makers, and train other health workers.

Resident Advisors and Technical Support

To establish an FE(L)TP, DGPCHD typically assigns an in-country resident advisor (RA) for 4 to 6 years to provide training and technical assistance.

As of June 2009, DGPCHD has 17 RAs for epidemiology and laboratory supporting 12 programs (Central America [3] (Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras), Central Asia [1] (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), China [2], Ethiopia [1], Ghana, India (Chennai, New Delhi) [1], Kenya (includes South Sudan) [2], Nigeria [1], Pakistan [1], South Africa [2], South Caucasus [2] (Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan), and Tanzania [1]).

In addition, the division provides technical support for special components of five more mature programs (Brazil, Egypt, Jordan, Thailand, and Zimbabwe), including technical advisors for Brazil and Thailand.

Country Teams

Located at CDC's headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, DGPCHD's staff of physicians, epidemiologists, public health advisors, instructional designers, health communications specialists, and support personnel provide additional scientific expertise, training consultations, and other programmatic support and advice to sustain FE(L)TPs and related programs.

Funding, Partnerships, and Networks

Developing partnerships is an important element of establishing, supporting, and sustaining the programs. DGPCHD regularly collaborates with national and international organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Health Organization, the Ellison Medical Foundation, and the World Bank to help set up and support FE(L)TPs around the world.

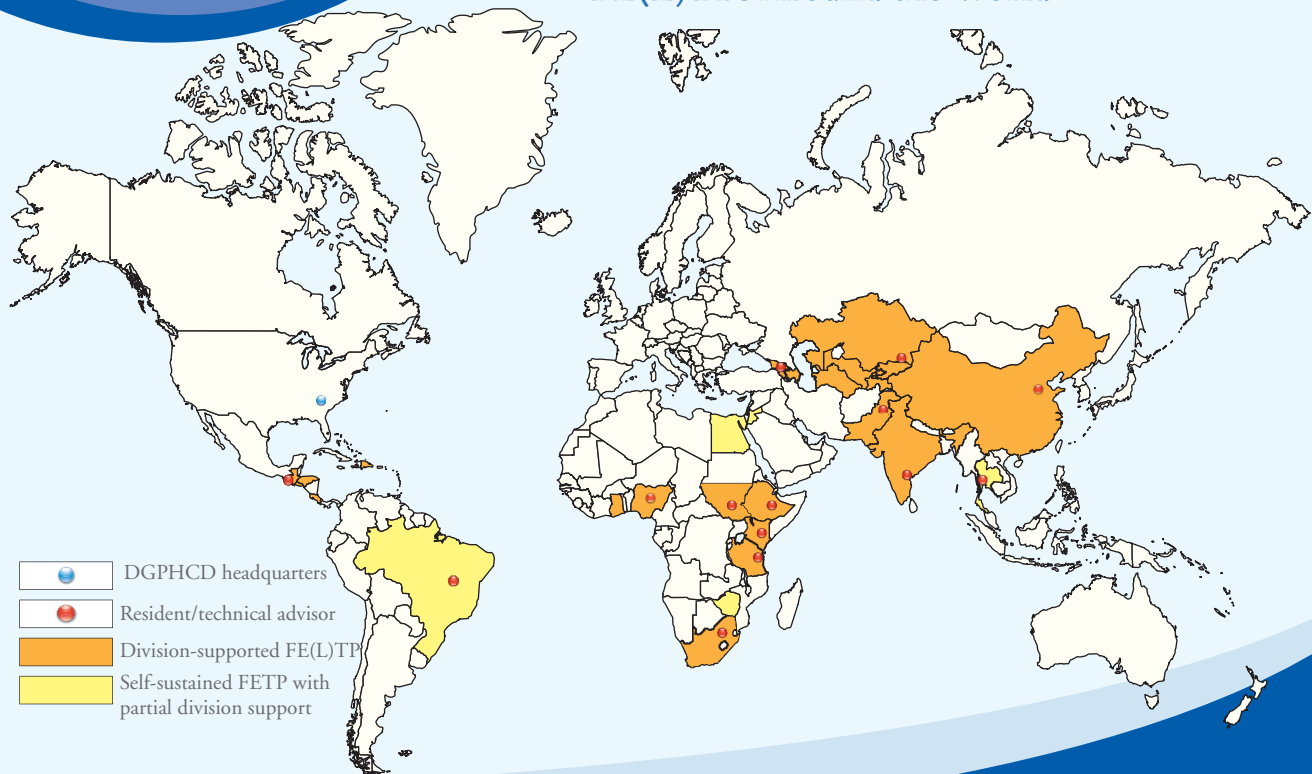
Countries that set up programs also can collaborate with two field epidemiology non-profit network organizations to share resources and best practices among FE(L)TPs: the international Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET), and the regional African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET).



Achievements

- Since 1980, DGPCHD has helped establish more than 30 field epidemiology training programs which have produced more than 1,000 graduates.
 - In 2008, the programs had 282 active trainees.
 - In 2008, active and alumni trainees conducted more than 200 outbreak investigations and gave 285 presentations at international conferences.
 - As of May 2009, DGPCHD provides 17 resident advisors for epidemiology and laboratory supporting 12 programs (covering 23 countries).
 - As of June 2009, DGPCHD provides technical support for special components of five more mature programs (Brazil, Egypt, Jordan, Thailand, and Zimbabwe), including technical advisors for Brazil and Thailand.

FE(L)TPs Around the World



Division of Global Public Health Capacity Development

Coordinating Office for Global Health

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Road, N.E., Mailstop E-93

Atlanta, Georgia 30333, USA

E-mail: DGPCHDinfo@cdc.gov

Phone: 404-639-3210 Fax: 404-639-4617



Revised 06/2009